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# NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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## CITY OF PIERCE RECEIVES \$1.6 MILLION TO UPGRADE WATER SYSTEM

USDA Rural Development has announced that the City of Pierce has been approved for a grant in the amount of \$424,000 and a loan of \$1.2 million to upgrade the City's existing water distribution system. Pierce has also received a \$500,000 CDBG grant from Idaho Department of Commerce/Labor.

Upgrading the current system is something the town has been working on for a number of years. Improvements will include meters for approximately 421 current water users, a booster station that will help with fire protection and 5-6 new fire hydrants. The booster station is a big plus because there have been times when water pressure was too low to allow adequate fire protection in areas such as The Pines addition. The new booster station will eliminate that problem.

The City was notified on March 4th that they had been approved for the loan and grant. Mayor Wallace "Wally" Williams is anxious to get the improvements underway. Bids for the project should go out in the next few weeks.

Idaho's State Director for USDA Rural Development Mike Field said: "In 2004 Idaho's USDA Rural development team provided over \$15 million in loans and grants to promote safe drinking water and sanitary sewer systems in rural communities around the state.

Rural Development is here to serve rural communities not only for their water and sewer needs but we stand ready to help them with community facility needs such as fire stations and health clinics. We also assist rural businesses and provide affordable housing in rural areas."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$50 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. As a result, over 800,000 jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>.

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